

REMARKS

The Examiner objects in the section "Specification" that the reference numbers 17 or 18 are not shown. It is submitted that these reference numbers appear correctly in both Figs. 3 and 4 at least of the formal drawings.

As required by the Examiner, the Abstract is herewith provided on a separate sheet, and is being amended from its condition as set forth in the published PCT Application WO 2004/004259.

Specific claims have been revised to meet the Examiner's objections under 35 USC§112 and in particular to provide clear antecedent basis for each recitation. It is submitted that, at least as amended, the claims are now clear and free from the objections raised.

Claims 5 through 8 were added in the Preliminary Amendment filed December 22, 2004. Because no rejections to these claims were set forth in the Office Action, Applicant will assume that these claims are allowable.

Claim 1 has also been revised to meet the Examiner's objections under 35 USC§103. Notably, claim 1 now recites:

"driver means for applying a switched transmission signal to a communication line with a controlled slew rate" and

"a series of delay elements for introducing respective individual delays in signals applied thereto and for cumulatively establishing operational connections of said transfer elements with said communication line with respective cumulative delays in time" and

"feedback means responsive to said switched transmission signal that said driver means applies to said communication line for controlling the individual delays introduced by said delay elements respectively, so as to control the cumulative delays ..."

The Examiner contends that Kim *et al* suggests feedback means (308, 310) for compensating for delay variations. However, the Applicant submits that Kim *et al* does not disclose or suggest feedback means controlling the individual delays introduced by said delay elements respectively, so as to control the cumulative delays, as now required by claim 1.

It is submitted that the structure claimed in claim 1 presents advantages compared to the structure of Kim *et al* that are not obvious. In particular, the delay times of the delay elements of the series 21 and 22 of Kim *et al* are fixed and, even if the slew rates of the CANH line 3 and the CANL line 4 can be matched to some extent, the slew rates are a function of temperature and of

the capacitive load of the CANH line 3 and the CANL line 4, so that the slew rates are still difficult to control. With the present invention, the matching is improved by controlling the individual delays introduced by the delay elements so that the slew rates do not need to be a function of temperature and of the capacitive load. Accordingly it is submitted that the invention as now claimed by claim 1 is allowable.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten to meet the objections under 35USC§112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim. The amendments made to claim 2 are intended to fulfill this requirement. Claims 3 and 4 depend from claims 1 or 2 and are hence submitted to be inventive and allowable also. Claims 1 through 8 remain in the application. Allowance of the application and issue of a patent is respectfully requested.

If Applicant has overlooked any additional fees, or if any overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit or debit Deposit Account 503079.

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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Respectfully submitted,

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